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IN MEMORIAM.

CHARLES HUDSON.

Hon. Robert C. Ventris -

With respectful regards of

Fanny B. Hudson -

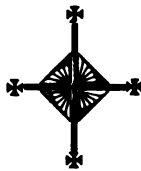
CHARLES HUDSON

An Memoriam

A PAPER READ AT THE MEETING OF THE WORCESTER
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUITY, TUESDAY EVENING

MAY 17TH, 1881

BY HENRY M. SMITH



Worcester, Massachusetts

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WORCESTER :
PRESS OF SNOW, WOODMAN AND COMPANY.

CHARLES HUDSON

BORN AT MARLBOROUGH, MASS., NOVEMBER 14TH, 1795

DIED AT LEXINGTON, MASS., MAY 4TH, 1881

AGED 85.

"We have reason to rejoice that our lives have been prolonged so that we have witnessed the extension and growth of our country and the adaptation of our institutions both to peace and to war; and above all that we have lived to see the foul stain of human servitude blotted out from our escutcheon."

[His Farewell Address to the Veterans of 1812.]

CHARLES HUDSON.

SINCE our last meeting, an esteemed honorary member of this Society has ended his long and useful life. Hon. Charles Hudson died at his residence in Lexington, Mass., on the 4th of May, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. There are very few human lives that, like his, resemble some rare day in summer, when the sun, from rising to setting, shines through every hour on fruitfulness and occupation. His relations to this Society we have had frequent occasions to value. The more broadly serviceable and eminent portion of his life was associated with Worcester County. Throughout two generations he has had identification with important facts of the history and progress of his own State of Massachusetts, and of this nation. My associates have, therefore, desired to bring into suitable form for the records of our Society, some of the features of his extended usefulness, and have devolved upon me this duty, on an occasion when I would prefer to sit a listener among you.

Every human life of fourscore or more years, however humble, if given in faithful record, registers the essential common facts of its epoch. Too much of permanent history has been written without the light that biography supplies. When, as in the present instance, a single mind well endowed, and well trained, and helped by opportunity, which even endowment and training do not always command, leaves its own impress and shaping on the events of over sixty years, the story of such service is part of the history of its period.

CHARLES HUDSON was born at Marlborough, Mass., in 1795. Of his birth and ancestry he says, in his Address at the Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of that town, in March, 1859 :

"My parents and grandparents have been residents among you. My maternal ancestors extend back to the first settlement of this township. My paternal ancestor, John Hudson, with two of his sons, took the field with other stout-hearted citizens to defend the colony against the combined attack of French and Indians. And in the struggle for Independence, the same ancestor, with eight hardy sons, showed their devotion to Liberty by arming in its defence. My parents and three sisters found a resting-place beneath your soil, while I, the sole member of the family, remain. Here were the sports of my childhood. In your venerable meeting-house I was offered up to Him in whose service I have attempted to labor in this community. In your schools I received my first lessons of instruction, and in the same little seminaries, forty years ago, I attempted to impart the rudiments of science to your children."

This strongly outlines the common characteristics of New England village life and training in that earlier day. In Mr. Hudson's instance, it was the case of a boy early taught by circumstances and surroundings to be earnest and self-reliant, and to struggle upward and outward. So well was this life duty accomplished that Marlborough holds him as one of her most honored sons, and when her territory was divided the new town was given his name, — Hudson.

His first work was as a farm helper ; his first step forward was towards self-sustaining, sturdy industry. But books were his companions and teachers, and from farm work he passed into the charge of the village school. All the testimony of those who knew him in this period of his life, declares that he was a great reader and student, with a strong, retentive, mental grasp, good in selection of models, and close in power of analysis. He taught with acceptability, and far in advance of the common modes of those times, in several Massachusetts towns. A merchant of Worcester, whose own head is now well silvered, showed me, a few days since, a little pile of carefully treasured "*Rewards of Merit*" given to himself, in his boyhood, in a district school in Leominster, signed by Charles Hudson, in 1819. And this early pupil remembers his school-master as a man of great

earnestness and industry, a most rare, skillful and friendly guide to his scholars. From teacher to preacher, the transition was easy and natural. He was ordained in 1819, and first preached to a small society in Danvers. So well had he wrought in the mastery of topics, and such were his traits of research and construction, that when, a few years later, he removed to Westminster, in the north part of this county, to take charge of the Universalist Church in that town, a position he filled, more or less associated with other duties and public services, for twenty years following, he became a controversialist, who left his mark broadly on the doctrinal discussions of that period. His "Letters to Hosea Ballou," on Future Retribution, 1827: "Reply to Balfour's Essays," 1829, are printed volumes that had much circulation, and can never be omitted from the study of any who desire to acquaint themselves with all active agencies in the denominational religious history of that remarkable epoch of New England thought. In the same vein were his "Sacred Memoirs," published in two volumes, in 1835, and his "Doubts concerning the Battle of Bunker Hill," an ingenious rejoinder to skepticism, published during his more engrossing public labors, in 1847.

He believed in the power of the printing-press, and frequently sought its help, both in the newspa-

pers of the day, largely those of Worcester, Fitchburg and Barre, and in books and pamphlets,—the latter the especial resort of public writers in that era. I find in Sabin's collections of Americana, quite a list of Mr. Hudson's pamphlets that bore their part in the memorable controversy and clash of doctrine and dogma half a century ago. It was then, and always a trait of Mr. Hudson's life, thorough heedfulness of all current topics and issues. Whatever occupied or challenged public thought, he carefully studied; first for himself, and then for the enlightenment of others. Thus he came into the early period of man's estate, well trained in mental industry, careful and painstaking in all he set his brain or hands to do. His five-acre homestead, on Academy Hill, in Westminster, with its solid walls and smooth fields, was the model and example for all farmers and homekeepers round about. He had, from early associations, and robust traits that shrunk from no labor needed for honorable results, a thorough love for the farmer's calling. Some of his early addresses to Farmers' and Agricultural Societies, on more or less formal occasions, are excellent wisdom that helped forward the era of more intelligent husbandry in this State. He was faithful and zealous in all the duties that came to him from parish or townspeople, and it came to pass

that the more secular public behests outgrew all others. He had been an educator, and began by educating himself, but he never, for that reason, believed that it was safe to leave the boys and girls of the Bay State to be self-taught. Some of his best efforts in early manhood were put forth in behalf of our Massachusetts Public School system. If Massachusetts, in her Board of Education, became a national example, and in such connection wrote the name of Horace Mann into her most honored rolls, it was largely because he had co-workers that represented the best thought of that period. The Massachusetts Board of Education was established in 1837, and in its earliest foundation work Mr. Hudson was associated in membership with such men as Everett, Dwight, Putnam, Rantoul, Robbins, and Sparks, all of whom honored his genuine services.

After his intelligent and wide relation to local topics and interests in central Massachusetts had suggested the pattern of the man, he began, in 1828, what continued until the close of his more active career, his broader service of public interests. I can give the present chronicle scarcely more expansion than the crisp chronology of Drake's American Biography, Lanman's Dictionary of Congress, and other similar registers of the men of their time.

He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1828 to 1833, and again, for a shorter period, near the close of his life, was sent to represent the town of Lexington in the same body. He was a State Senator from 1833 to 1839; a member of the Governor's Council from 1839 to 1841; a Representative in Congress four successive terms, from 1841 to 1849; one of the early members of the Massachusetts State Board of Education; a member of the early Legislative Railroad Committees; a State Director of the Boston and Albany, and years later State Commissioner of the Hoosac Tunnel, as an associate of the late Hon. Alvah Crocker. For eight years, at two different periods, he filled important Federal offices in Boston and vicinity.

But when this little chain of dates is measured upon the public annals of the time, how much of human progress and public vicissitude is seen to be included. As already stated, it records a helpful part of our noble system of Public School education. It covers the entire railroad history of Massachusetts, which largely engaged Mr. Hudson's attention and services in its formative era. He was an earnest advocate of development of transit facilities. At one time he looked to see canal boats climb the levels of the Nashua, and pass down the lockage of

Miller's River, on the projected water route from Boston to Albany. But he was among the first to welcome the railroad and its possibilities. He was among the earliest public writers, and a member of the first Legislative Committees that gave directions and prepared the way for the railroad era. I am glad I had written thus far in this part of my theme before there came to me, as to yourselves, the testimony of Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, in his remark before the Massachusetts Historical Society, on Thursday evening of the last week. On this very point, Mr. Winthrop says :

"My earliest association with Mr. Hudson was in the Legislature of Massachusetts, more than forty years ago, where he did more than any other member of either branch in the organization of our then infant railroad system. Our former associate, the late Nathan Hale, with whom Mr. Hudson actively co-operated, could alone, as it seems to me, be named as having rendered equal service."

This is evidence that will not be questioned, fixing Mr. Hudson's place in Massachusetts railroad annals. Most of my associates, certainly the elders among them, remember the familiar sign-board that so long held its place over our highways, kindly warning the public of their unaccustomed perils, written by Mr. Hudson, years before the invention of the steam whistle, or even the word LOCOMOTIVE. "*Railroad Crossing: Look out for the Engine while the bell rings.*"

But Mr. Hudson became most widely known and most broadly useful to his time in his relation to national affairs, during the eight years of his Congressional services. In 1841 he succeeded Hon. Levi Lincoln, whose immediate predecessor was Hon. John Davis, as the representative of the Fifth Massachusetts District. Men of our own day who have passed through the eras of Rebellion and Reconstruction, if they would have the full meaning of the mighty questions whose solution has cost our time so much blood and treasure, must study intelligently the immediately preceding epoch. Able writers have given us the history of the Anti-Slavery struggle, on pages written too near, in point of time, to the events themselves, to be free from coloring of pique and prejudice. The permanent historian will be sure to give the grand old Whig party, as its standards were borne by Massachusetts men in Congress, its share in that consolidation and sympathy of our Americanism which was needed to carry us, as a people, beyond the perils of foreign interference and civil commotion, and make us strong enough to withstand and survive the death struggles of the infamous institution of human bondage, whose ultimate doom was indeed forecast, when it was first wind-drifted a noxious weed over the walls of our garden of liberty.

Charles Hudson will stand as a solid type of the Massachusetts Whig of the period, sturdy, faithful and earnest in the first work that came to him, *the Protection of American Industry*, and the first defences against Slavery aggressions in the interests of Slave Labor. He came into Congressional life when, inspired by Slavery, co-operating with British policy, Free Trade had bequeathed to us, in the language of that most competent writer, Henry C. Carey,

“A commerce that gave an excess of specie, a people ruined, their governments in a state of repudiation, a public treasury bankrupt and begging everywhere for loans at the highest rate of interest, a revenue collected and disbursed in irredeemable paper money, and a very large foreign debt.”

For years southern slaveholding policy had dominated in the promotion of the cotton export, and the free importation of all manufactured products of the forge, the loom, and the shop. The system of Compromises, begun in 1833, had reduced well nigh to nothing, all rates on dutiable imposts. Our national revenues had fallen to twelve millions of dollars. We need not write of these things hotly, but it would be an un-American, and not altogether of present unwisdom, to forget that, behind the imperious demand of the slave owners, had stood, for a quar-

ter of a century, the boldly declared menace of more than one British premier, that "the people of the United States must, and would be forced to give up their Tariff, or their Union."

It was at such a time as this that the new member from Worcester County entered Congress. He came full of his subject. He came from a manufacturing region of crushed manufacturing enterprises. He had looked deep beneath the outer meaning of the familiar signs of the village stores of that period, "*English and West India Goods*." He came to stand among sons of Massachusetts, whose names will live, in a shining galaxy, as long as the Bay State endures: Webster, Adams, Davis, Choate, Briggs, Lincoln, Rantoul. It was not a company wherein a light and superficial man could make place or mark. But he was already trained in thought, and its presentation. His first formal speech was delivered in his first term in Congress. His cherished colleague and life-long friend, George N. Briggs, of more experience at the National Capital, kindly hinted to Mr. Hudson the possible peril of taking the floor while so much a stranger to his surroundings; but he knew his own powers, and with modesty, yet perfect self-possession, delivered his speech on Discriminating Duties, December 27th and 28th, 1841. It was strong, earnest, full of fact

and statistics, in good temper, and yet direct and to the point, and stamped him as a doctrinaire of the first order. Mr. Adams, in his Diary, refers to it as "an excellent speech." It was at once, and has always since been regarded as a most admirable exposition of an American doctrine, which our own recent presidential canvass has shown to be not yet extinct in value and meaning in our national affairs. It had the merit of clear, compact statement of a live topic, and it was read more widely through the country than any speech of its period.

Of laborious, habits, rugged physical strength, and thoroughly attentive to all the general and special calls upon a legislator, Mr. Hudson made, in the course of his congressional life, from twelve to fourteen speeches and several formal committee reports. He never engrossed time, or the floor, unless he had something to say. His speeches I have before me, and they discuss the live topics of a vivid time.

Discriminating Duties, 1841; The Annexation of Texas, 1845; The Tariff, 1846; The Wheat Trade of the Country, 1846; The Mexican War, 1846; The President's Message on the War with Mexico, 1846; The Three Million Appropriation Bill, 1847; The Cost of the Mexican War, and the Finances of the Country, 1848; The Constitutional power of Congress over the Territories, and

and the Right of excluding Slavery therefrom, 1848.

In all of these speeches are the utterances of the broadly national, liberty-loving, old-fashioned Massachusetts Whig; hating Slavery, bold against its aggressions, and free spoken in warnings of its inseparable evils and perils. By his open and manly opposition to the Mexican War, he was honored by the advocates of Slavery extension, with classification among the "ignoble fourteen" who voted according to the dictates of their own consciences. While we duly honor the early Abolitionists who carried their hot picket lines far beyond the possible issues of that day, and see a mission for the "Garrisonite" and the "Come-outer," we must praise, and permanent history will reward the earnest, honest Massachusetts Whig who fought the actual conflict of the period *just where he found it*, in the Ordinance of 1787 and the Wilmot Proviso, and bore its victorious standards forward to sterner lines of embattlement.

The country was not ready, in 1840, for the work of 1860. We must give due credit to those who shaped and held together, in onward progress, the main body of our northern people, until God's own time for national deliverance from perils and shame.

Of the Congress of 1841, of which Mr. Hudson was first a member, Charles Sumner, a looker-on in Washington, wrote to Dr. Francis Lieber, in South Carolina, declaring against its brutality and ruffianism. "One of its worst signs is subversion of the rules. No personality is too low." If there be a fear lest this be the over-nice criticism of an elegant man of letters, not yet become the statesman, and martyr to this same Pro-slavery brutalism, let us take the evidence of one who occupied the reverse standpoint. Of this same period, Mr. Wise, a member from Virginia, in the course of debate on the floor of the House, uttered this plaintive note in rebuke: "The anti-duelling law is producing its fruits. It is making this House a bear garden. We see and hear one member branded as a coward on this floor. The other says back that he is a liar. And, sir, there the matter will stop; there will be no fight."

The representative Southern man of that time was imperious, willing to be thought personally dangerous to all opponents. Northern men, of Mr. Hudson's cool, large and sturdy type, who would talk freely, and even sharply, and yet be good-natured, with whom a personal encounter was not to be thought of, and most likely to be avoided when considered, became at that time broadly useful in

rallying Northern sentiment, teaching the North its rights, opening its eyes to the demands of the South, and battling to hold Slavery fast and firm within its limits until the appointed time when, like a reptile in a ring of fire, it should sting itself to death in the blaze of battle.

A scene which took place in the House on the 10th of January, 1846, shows that Mr. Hudson was sufficiently prominent for virulent attack on the part of the Pro-Slavery administration organs and managers, and when he appealed to the House, in the face of insult and ruffianly abuse standing cool and steady to his purpose, so much was his assailant shown to be in the wrong, that though connected with the Washington party newspaper, he escaped expulsion as public printer by only a few votes. The incident is given in Mr. Adams' Diary.

And this Congress justly represented a dominant national sentiment of the period. There was much remaining to be done in Northern States before they might struggle out from the dark penumbra of Slavery. Lovejoy was then scarcely a regretted martyr. Few of the Black Laws had been repealed from Northern statute books. The North needed the burning lessons of the chained Court House in Boston; the mobbing of Samuel Hoar in Charleston; the rendition of fugitives from her free communi-

ties ; the story of Uncle Tom's Cabin, and Bleeding Kansas, before the heat of her hostility to Slavery should rise high enough for the task that came in its own time, and created the Free Soil and the Republican parties.

History might have written of a grappling like our late struggle, without this change in Northern sentiment first secured, a scene of confusion and peril, unimaginable in its horrors and results to the world's civilization. In this middle ground of preparation were borne the standards and won the victories of the old Whig party.

When the nomination and election of Gen. Taylor brought disruption to the Whig organization, Mr. Hudson's district of Worcester County was too strongly Anti-Slavery to sustain the position he chose manfully to occupy, with reference to the canvass, fidelity to the nominees. In his farewell address to his constituents, written at Washington, in February, 1849, he expresses the sentiments of his class of Massachusetts Whigs :

" I had no doubt that Gen. Taylor would sign a bill sustaining the Wilmot Proviso, and that Gen. Cass would veto such a bill. Entertaining these views, I never gave a more sincere Anti-Slavery vote in my life than the one I gave for Gen. Taylor."

In Mr. Hudson's speech on The Constitutional power of Congress over the Territories, and the Right

of excluding Slavery therefrom, delivered in the House, June 20th, 1848, he was interrupted by an Ohio member, Mr. Lahm, who asked: "Entertaining these views on Slavery, will the gentleman from Massachusetts vote for Gen. Taylor?" I give Mr. Hudson's reply:

"I will answer the gentleman from Ohio. He knows, I presume, that there are two classes of men in this country devoted to the institution of Slavery; a class from the South, who, living with the institution about them, and all their early associations being connected with it, have reconciled themselves to it, and see less evil in it than Northern men are supposed to see; some may even believe that, under all the circumstances of the case, it is no moral wrong, though all admit that it is a calamity.

"There is another class from the North, who are often known as 'dough-faces,' who regard the institution precisely as I do; but who, nevertheless, for the sake of the loaves and fishes, are willing to bow to the Slave power—to the Slave institution—to do anything and everything for the purpose of promotion. Now, if I am called upon to select between men of these descriptions—if I am compelled to vote for either—I should vote for Gen. Taylor in preference to Gen. Cass, just as I would vote for an honest man in preference to a hypocrite."

Mr. Hudson was not an orator. His language was plain and strongly wrought, and without passionate appeals. All classes of readers understood him, and Congressional speeches were read in those times. Years after their delivery, I found in the West many intelligent citizens who remembered and credited instruction to Mr. Hudson's Tariff and

Anti-Slavery utterances. He was in the House with Lincoln and Douglas, and more than once grappled in debate with the latter. With Abraham Lincoln, his friendship was warm and for a life-time; and Slavery had no better haters than such representative Whigs as these.

They remained good Whigs when they became Republicans, and were forecasted Republicans while they were yet Whigs.

Referring again to Mr. Winthrop's tribute to Mr. Hudson, that accomplished gentleman who was in Congress with him, says of him, what he had before said of him, on a previous occasion, before the same society: "He was one of the ablest and honestest men Massachusetts ever had."

Mr. Hudson's residence in Worcester County closed in 1849, thirty-two years ago. A generation has passed away, and few of his contemporaries remain; but our older residents, many of them, retain the impressions made upon their earlier manhood, by one who has been thus identified with important periods of our public affairs. His later public services may be briefly told. He refused a position in Gen. Taylor's cabinet as Secretary of Interior, during the Taylor and Fillmore Administrations was Naval officer at the port of Boston. His second Federal office was that of Assessor of

Internal Revenue, during President Lincoln's first term of office.

I have left all too little space and time to speak of a most important part of Mr. Hudson's life-labors, which especially commend him to the grateful tributes of societies like our own.* Few, in his own time, have equalled him as a laborious and intelligent compiler of local history. Mr. Winthrop, long associated with him in the Massachusetts Historical Society, of which he became a member in 1859, says of him :

"As a local historian, few of his contemporaries have done more. His history of Marlborough, his native place; of Westminster, where he long resided; and still more, of the far-famed Lexington, where he lived still later, and where he died, make up a most important and interesting contribution to the illustration of our Commonwealth."

Mr. Hudson became a member of the American Antiquarian Society, in this city, in 1844. His contributions to the Collections of that and other Historical Societies, including generously our own, in printed volumes, sketches, and papers in the periodicals of the day, or published among Society Transactions, are the sifted grain of history, made ready for its permanent garnerers.†

In the last Report of the Council of the American Antiquarian Society, October, 1880, reference is

* See Appendix A. † See Appendix B.

made to a class of sketches which will worthily stand as Mr. Hudson's latest contribution to the history of his own time. His manuscript "Memoirs of the three Massachusetts Governors from Worcester," Levi Lincoln, John Davis, and Emory Washburn; "A Memoir of George N. Briggs;" "The American Trio; or, the Characters of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun;" "The Lives of Edward Everett and Marcus Morton, as Governors of the State, Contrasted;"—Mr. Hudson was a member of the Council of both these,— "A Sketch of Horace Mann;" these, with the Memoirs of Abraham Lincoln, and the Letter to Andrew Johnson, constitute a remarkable gallery of pen portraits from one to whose intimate association with his subjects, was joined a rare power in preserving and analyzing their traits.

I should not be faithful to the generous public spirit that kept the latest years of his life employed, did I fail to indicate, though briefly, the connection he maintained with the affairs of his historic town, Lexington. He personally organized and managed the great Lexington Centennial. His pen has helped make clear the story of Lexington fight; and his labors, in such direction, are praised both in this country and in England. He made possible, for Lexington, her Town and Memorial Hall, and

admirable Cary Library, adorned with the statues of Hancock and Adams, the Minute Man, and the Boy in Blue;* and the last week of his life found him busy in labeling and arranging the cabinet of minerals he had been long collecting for the Cary Library and Museum.

Says Rev. Mr. Wescott, his pastor, in his remarks at the funeral of Mr. Hudson :

“The inscription on Sir Christopher Wren’s monument might well be placed above the mortal form of our friend, as it rests in the soil of the town he loved so well, and labored so earnestly to improve. ‘If you would see his monument, look around you.’ ”

Mr. Hudson was twice married; his wives were sisters, daughters of John Rider, of Shrewsbury. Four of his children have passed away; a widow, son and daughter survive him.† In the war of the Rebellion, his second son, the late Lieut. Col. John W. Hudson, represented the fourth succeeding generation of the name in bearing arms for his country.

No words from Mr. Hudson are more thrilling and deeply characteristic than those in which, as their President, he addressed his venerable associates, the Veterans of the War of 1812, on the disbandment of their organization, in 1879:

* See Appendix C. † See Appendix D.

"We have reason to rejoice that our lives have been prolonged to witness the extension and growth of our country, and the adaptation of our institutions, both to peace and to war; and, above all, that we have lived to see the foul stain of human servitude blotted out from our escutcheon."

Words worthy to stand for his own final farewell.

In the present form into which this memorial has passed, a few lines deserve to be added which will have their full meaning only for those who, in the home circle, or at a distance, through the thrilling of the family tie, watched the closing scenes of the life now ended. With all the inevitable sadness brought by the final bereavement, this grief is alleviated by the merciful Providence that carried forward, almost to the closing scene, the subject of this memorial, with far less of clouding and obscuration of the evening sky than falls to the average experience of those who come to advanced old age. Though the penalties and restrictions of that period were upon him, these he met, and to a wonderful degree overcame, with a calm, ready courage and patience that were traits of his best period of activity reserved for the staff of his declining years. A steady cheerfulness, a spirit of heed for all leading topics of the time never forsook him, and helped his determina-

tion to be useful to the last. And he was useful; not rebukingly to, or out of sympathy with, the new generation that had come upon the stage since he and his cotemporaries were prominent in public affairs; never living in that past save to derive therefrom lessons for to-day and for the future. He accepted the more restricted sphere compelled by pressing years and waning strength, but into its range carried the same industry and earnest, connected effort, that had wrought the results for which his life will be remembered. That hearty kindliness which had been his characteristic in his busiest hours of public service never deserted him in all the later contacts of his life; whether for the men and thinkers of to-day, from the full store-house of his memory he drew important facts and teachings that were the history of his time; or when the great store of lighter reminiscences was opened for the delight and entertainment of the young people who always found him their appreciative friend and companion. One of his grand-children will remember a trip of sight-seeing to Boston, where the old man of eighty-five, in the last year of his life, was the conductor of the pleasure route which in its course took the pair to the top of the Equitable Insurance Building, that from the lofty height he might look upon and point out to his young companion the

Boston of to-day. He made no long journeys in later years, but was active within points easily reached from his home, physical weakness steadily narrowing these boundaries, while he retained his interest in all they contained.

During the last year of Mr. Hudson's life, he found occupation and pleasure in collecting a cabinet of marbles, minerals and curiosities, to be placed in the Cary Library, in Lexington. It had long been a cherished plan with him, but other pursuits and interests had delayed its execution. He now devoted to it the same untiring zeal and energy which characterized all his work.

Kind friends and correspondents, near and far, interested themselves in his plans, and aided him by their contributions; and he had the pleasure, at last, of seeing a collection which exceeded the limits he had at first assigned to it, and which, he believed, might somewhat aid the young in comprehending the wonderful resources of this earth on which we dwell.

So it befel that the last months of his life were among the busiest he had ever known, and, very often, his failing strength was taxed to its utmost to carry on the task for the day on which his heart was set. When anxious friends, who sadly saw his pale face, and bowed and wasted frame, urged him

to rest, and to defer, until a milder season, the labors which were wearing his strength away, they were met with the same unfailing reply, "I can work to-day; I cannot count on the morrow;" and he worked on, while the day lasted, conscious that the night was fast coming "when no man can work."

Meanwhile disease, from which he had long suffered, joined to the infirmities of age, was rapidly advancing to its inevitable termination. The end, though so long expected, came suddenly, at last.

On Saturday, the twenty-third of April, under his personal supervision, the cabinet, which was to contain the result of his winter's work, was set up in the Library Hall, at Lexington. On Monday, the twenty-fifth, though weak and suffering, he was carried to the Hall, and began arranging, on the shelves, the specimens he had taken such pleasure in collecting. As the day wore on, however, pain and exhaustion finally overcame even his resolute will, and before his work was finished, he most reluctantly laid it down and went to his home to seek the rest he so much needed.

It was his last work. There followed a few days of extreme suffering, mercifully relieved, toward the close, by the administration of powerful opiates, and then — the end.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, the fourth of

May, the heavy sleep in which he had been lying, changed into the sleep of death, and ended his long and useful labors.

APPENDIX.

A.

NOTICES OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

At the head of the roll of members of the American Antiquarian Society, for 1881, stands the names of Hon. George Bancroft, the oldest surviving member, elected to membership in 1838 ; Samuel Foster Haven, elected in 1838, and for forty-three years the honored and widely esteemed Librarian of the Society, his lamented death occurring in the present year ; Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, elected a member in 1838 ; Hon. Stephen Salisbury, in 1840 ; Hon. Isaac Davis, in 1841 ; Hon. Peleg W. Chandler, 1843 ; and Hon. Charles Hudson, 1844. Rev. George E. Ellis, and Rev. Edward Everett Hale stand next in order on the roll, both elected members in 1847. These honored names are thus presented, to show Mr. Hudson's long connection with the Society, and to give the greater deserved value to the tributes to his services and his memory by these his associates through many years.

The Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, of the Annual Meeting, at Worcester, October 21, 1880, contain in the Report of the Council, by Hon. Stephen Salisbury, the following tribute to Mr. Hudson :

"Previous reports have informed the Society that our distinguished associate, Hon. Charles Hudson, of Lexington, Mass., has given to our Library his manuscript Memoirs of the " Three Massachusetts Governors from Worcester,"—Messrs. Levi Lincoln, John Davis, and Emory Washburn ; and a similar Memoir of George N. Briggs, another Governor of that State. These were all different, strongly marked, able and honorable men, who made an impression on the history of their time, by qualities Mr. Hudson well understood. In June last he gave a similar

volume entitled, "The American Trio; or, the Characters of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun," eminent statesmen and compatriots. Mr. Hudson had every opportunity of knowing his subjects, in the long period when he was the leader in the Congress of the United States, and in friendly and constant intercourse with them. Though the temptation to make extracts from these papers must be resisted, it may be permitted to mention that Mr. Hudson takes notice of an interesting fact, not often observed, that Mr. Webster "never displayed his powers in presiding," while Mr. Clay was eminent in that position. In August last, Mr. Hudson gave us another of his manuscripts, entitled, "The Lives and Characters of Edward Everett and Marcus Morton, as Governors of the State, contrasted." This is a spirited sketch of two strong men, like and unlike in some of their peculiarities, with whom Mr. Hudson was officially associated as a member of the Executive Council of each of them. Mr. Hudson adds to his last gift his printed pamphlets, which are now rare: "A Memoir of Abraham Lincoln," and "A Letter to President Johnson."

"His manuscripts are all very neatly and legibly written, with his own pen, and handsomely and protectively bound. He presents them, in his letters to Dr. Haven, with deprecatory modesty, and regrets the change of his handwriting, which he imputes to the chill of eighty-five winters. He speaks of his most recent gift as his last contribution of biography. To this we cannot assent, while he is able to go before successive generations in the activity of his mind, for instruction and counsel, though his power of locomotion is impaired."

At the Annual Meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, held at Worcester, October 21, 1881, in the Report of the Council, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D.D., referred to Mr. Hudson's life and services as follows:

"Hon. Charles Hudson, born in Marlborough, Mass., November 14, 1795, died in Lexington, Mass., 4, 1881. He became a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1844. He

belonged in the epoch of Daniel Webster, John Quincy Adams, and their contemporaries. He was a native of Marlborough, and a portion of that town was set off and named Hudson in his honor. He was a Universalist minister, and he took part in the memorable controversy between Unitarianism and Universalism. He entered political life in 1828, as a State representative. He was a member of Governor Morton's counsel in 1839-41, and representative in Congress from 1841-49, where he became prominent for his services in the tariff discussion of that period. He was a naval officer of Boston, Mass., 1849-53, and Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Middlesex District during the first administration of President Lincoln, of whom he was a personal friend and one of his advisers at the conference held in Springfield, Ill., 1860. He was prominently associated with our earliest railroad legislation, and was State Director of the Boston and Albany Railroad and State Commissioner of the Hoosac Tunnel. He has issued histories of the towns of Westminster, Marlborough and Lexington. It is told of Mr. Hudson that he absented himself from his own canvass and went down to Maine to escape the suspicion of pushing for office.

"He deposited from time to time in the library of the American Antiquarian Society manuscript volumes carefully written by his own pen, and neatly bound, containing Lives of the Massachusetts Governors,—Levi Lincoln, John Davis, and George N. Briggs; a sketch of the "American Trio,—Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun;" and the lives and characters of Edward Everett and Marcus Morton contrasted. He published histories of the towns of Westminster in 1832, of Marlborough in 1862, and of Lexington, Mass., in 1868.

"In the death of Hon. Charles Hudson the Society has lost a member of long standing, who not only contributed to its works as many public men have done by the weight of his character, by his reputation in the community, and by his counsel in its management, but to such services he added the scholar's duties of a careful historian. Vigorous and indepen-

dent, he carried to the national councils that sturdiness of character which in critical times has been typical of the district which he represented. He certainly owed his elections to men's absolute confidence in the steadiness and weight of his character, and was not in the least dependent on the convenient art of the politician. Of our later history, therefore, he had seen much, and he had borne a man's share in what he saw. He approached national politics with a Puritan's sensitiveness of conscience, and could not be persuaded to make the right subordinate itself to the expedient. His intimacy with public men, running far back into this century, gave an interest all its own to his study of the lives of his contemporaries. The Antiquarian Society has the benefit of that study in a series of memoirs which he has placed in its archives. The volumes and pamphlets which he has published on different subjects of history are leading authorities on those subjects and will remain so."

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

At the stated meeting held on Thursday, May 12th, at 3 P. M., in the Dowse Library, the President, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop in the chair, the President announced the deaths of an Honorary and a Resident Member. Referring to his own recent absence from home, within which period these deaths had taken place (one of these the venerable Dr. John G. Palfrey of Cambridge), he said the papers had apprised him "that the excellent Charles Hudson had been released from the burdens of the flesh." He said :

"Much more time would have been required than the few hours I have had at my command since I reached home, on Tuesday evening, for preparing any adequate notice of such names, but I should not be forgiven for not dwelling a moment on those which have had a place on our rolls.

"Mr. Hudson was chosen a Resident Member of this Society in June, 1859, and during the twenty-one years of his member-

ship, had rendered valuable service to the cause in which we are associated. As a local historian few of his contemporaries, if any, have done more. His history of the towns of Marlborough, his native place ; of Westminster, where he long resided ; and still more of the far-famed Lexington, where he lived still later, and where he died,—make up a most interesting and important contribution to the illustration of the Commonwealth. But long before he entered on this field of labor, he had played a conspicuous part in the service both of the state and the nation. My earliest association with him was in the Legislature of Massachusetts, more than forty years ago, where he did more, I think, than any other member in either branch, in the organization of our then infant railroad system. Our former associate, the late Nathan Hale, with whom he actively co-operated, could alone, as it seems to me, be named as having rendered equal service. In 1841 he was transferred to the House of Representatives of the United States, where for eight years he exhibited the same practical sagacity and ability in the legislation of Congress.

“It will not be forgotten that as lately as January, 1880, when he had already entered on the eighty-fifth year of his age, Mr. Hudson made an interesting communication, now printed in the last volume of our Proceedings, on “The Character of Major John Pitcairn, the British officer who opened the Drama of the American Revolution, on the 19th of April, 1775.” In presenting to the Society that communication, which he had intrusted to my care and discretion, I spoke of my venerable friend as ‘one of the ablest and honestest men whom Massachusetts ever had in her service.’ What I said of him living, I repeat, now that he is dead. He was a man of the strongest practical common sense, of untiring industry, of great ability, and of the sternest integrity in public, as well as in private life, and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to bear witness to his varied services, and to express the deep respect I have always entertained for his exemplary character, and his eminent usefulness to his fellowmen, and his country.

“It would have gratified him to know that his paper on Pitcairn had attracted favorable attention from the descendants of

that officer in England, and that diligent investigation had been made, though thus far without success, to verify the suggestion that Pitcairn was buried at Westminster Abbey. I was just proposing to communicate with Mr. Hudson on that point, when I heard of his death."

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE following sketch of Mr. Hudson appears in the Necrology for 1881, in the Transactions of the New England Historic Genealogical Society:

The Hon. Charles Hudson, A. M., of Lexington, Mass., a resident member, was born in the town of Marlborough, Mass., Nov. 14, 1795, and died at Lexington, Mass., May 4, 1881, at the age of 85 years, 5 months and 20 days. A part of his native town, though not the part in which he was born, was taken from it, incorporated as a town March 19, 1866, and named Hudson in his honor.

His childhood and youth were passed upon the farm, but his love of books was early awakened, and without the advantages of a collegiate education, he acquired literary tastes and habits. In 1819, at the age of 24, he was ordained to the Universalist ministry, and was actively employed in public labors in connection with that denomination, though in a somewhat broken way, until 1841. His place of ministerial settlement during these years, was at Westminster, Mass.

He was married July 21, 1825, to Ann Rider, of Shrewsbury, Mass., who died September 19, 1829. In the following year, May 11, 1830, he was united in marriage with her sister Martha B. Rider. There were two children by the first marriage, one of whom died in infancy, and four by the second, one of whom died in infancy.

From 1828 to 1833 he represented the town of Westminster in the Massachusetts House, and from 1833 to 1839 he was State Senator, representing Worcester County. From 1839 to 1841 he was a member of the Governor's Council. From 1841

to 1849 he was a member of Congress. Then for four years, from 1849 to 1853, he was naval officer at Boston.

The earliest American ancestor of Mr. Hudson was Daniel Hudson, who came from England to these shores about the year 1639, and settled first at Watertown. In 1665 he purchased a tract of land of Major Simon Willard, in Lancaster, and became a resident of that town. He and his wife, two children, and two grand-children were killed by the Indians in 1697.

Mr. Hudson's father was Stephen Hudson, born in Marlborough, June 12, 1761, a soldier for three years in the Continental army, and dying March 21, 1827. His mother was Louisa Williams, born in Marlborough, Sept. 7, 1769, and dying Oct. 7, 1837.

In 1849 Mr. Hudson removed from Westminster to Lexington, where he resided till his death. As an author he has done much important work. He wrote the History of the town of Westminster, which was published in 1832. His History of Marlborough was published in 1862, his History of Lexington in 1868, and his History of Hudson in 1877. He was for several years editor of the Boston *Daily Atlas*. His "Letters to H. Ballou" were published in 1827, his "Reply to Balfour's Essays" in 1829, and "Doubts concerning the Battle of Bunker Hill," 12mo., in 1857.

The record given above of Mr. Hudson's life is quite extensive; but it really gives only a very limited view of his public responsibilities. Very few men have, in this respect, so extended a roll. He was for eight years a member of our State Board of Education; for four years assessor of internal revenue for sixth district, under President Lincoln; for many years state director of Boston and Albany Railroad; state commissioner of Hoosac Tunnel; an active originator of the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad; president of the Lexington Branch Railroad. He took a leading part in all the arrangements for the Centennial Celebration of Battle of Lexington, six years ago; was the chief mover towards the erecting of the Memorial Hall at Lexington, and made the historical address at the unveiling of the statues.

He was a member of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, and of the Massachusetts Historical Society of Boston.

Mr. Hudson was admitted a resident member of this society Dec. 25, 1855. He was vice-president for Massachusetts from January, 1859, to January, 1861; and a member of the publishing committee from November, 1861, to October, 1863. He edited one number of the REGISTER, namely, that for July, 1862. He received the degree of A. M. from Harvard College in 1841. His long life has been exceedingly full of practical and literary labors.

At a stated meeting of this Society, held Wednesday afternoon, December 7th, 1881, the President, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, in the chair, Mr. William B. Trask, a committee to prepare resolutions on the death of Mr. Hudson, reported the following:

Resolved, That in the death of Hon. Charles Hudson, a former Vice-President of the Society, we mourn the loss of a faithful and conscientious member of our Association, and an upright Christian man and fellow citizen.

Resolved, That in the situations and circumstances of a long and varied life, in public and private, in Congress and in the State Legislature, in pulpit and through the press, he has proved himself a wise legislator, a true patriot, counsellor and friend.

Resolved, That he deserves an honorable mention as the historian of his native and other towns, and for his earnest and successful endeavors to be accurate in his statements and details.

Resolved, That our sympathies are extended to his family, while we rejoice, also, with them in the record he has left of a good and useful life, and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to them.

John Ward Dean, Esq., Secretary of this Society, in his preface to vol. 38 of the REGISTER, says:

"The Hon. Charles Hudson, A. M., after a faithful ministry in early manhood, and a successful political career in maturer years, has spent the evening of his life in antiquarian pursuits. As the historian of Lexington and Marlborough, he will long be remembered."

B.

LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS.

THE following is a list of Mr. Hudson's published works exclusive of speeches in Congress and contributions to periodicals :

Letters to Hosea Ballou on Future Retribution, 1827.

Reply to Balfour's Essays, 1829.

Sacred Memoirs (2 vols.), 1835.

History of Westminster, Mass., 1832.

Historical Address at the Centennial Anniversary of the same, 1859.

Doubts Concerning the Battle of Bunker Hill, 1857.

History of Marlborough, Mass., 1862.

History of Lexington, Mass., 1868.

Abstract history of same, bringing annals of town down to July 4th, 1876—1876.

Abstract history of Hudson, Mass. (originally part of Marlborough), from first settlement to July, 1876—1876.

Character of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and the Constitutionality of his Emancipation Policy, 1864.

Character of Major John Pitcairn, the British officer who opened the Drama of the American Revolution, on the 19th of April, 1775. In Mass. Hist. Society's Collections, 1880.

Farewell Address to the New England Association of the Soldiers of the War of 1812, on the dissolution the Association, October, 1879—1879.

Address at unveiling of the Statues of Samuel Adams and John Hancock, at the Lexington Centennial Celebration, April, 1875—1875.

Sketches of Lexington, and Hudson, in Drake's History of Middlesex County, 1879.

C.

THE LEXINGTON MEMORIAL STATUES.

THE statues referred to, four in number, are noble features of the Memorial Hall at Lexington. When the hall was finished, in 1871, two broad niches in the vestibule were filled, one with an emblematic figure of the Minute Man of 1775, the other with the figure of the Union Soldier. These were life-sized statues, in marble, designed and executed at Hartford, Conn. At the Lexington Centennial, in 1875, the statues which now fill the two other niches, thus completing the original plan, were unveiled as a prominent ceremonial feature of the celebration, Mr. Hudson delivering the unveiling speech. These figures are superb portrait statues of John Hancock and Samuel Adams, the first executed in Rome, by Thomas R. Gould, the other in Florence, by Martin Milmore. Toward the cost of these statues, the late lamented Mrs. Cary, of Brooklyn, a native, and through many years a summer resident at Lexington, contributed generously, in addition to her previous large gifts to the general project of Memorial Hall. So helpful was the liberality of this excellent lady to the plans of Mr. Hudson and his associates, in their patriotic undertakings in Lexington, that this mention is deserved here, and is the more timely because her noble labors and sympathies were lost to earth within the same year in which Mr. Hudson's own life-work ended.

D.

DESCENDANTS OF CHARLES HUDSON.

IN 1849 Mr. Hudson removed from Westminster to Lexington, where he died, May 4th, 1881. His children were all born in Westminster, and were :

1. HARRIET WILLIAMS, born August 18, 1827 ; died July 26, 1828.

2. HARRIET ANN, born September 13, 1829 ; married, September 4, 1854, Henry M. Smith, and resided for many years in Chicago. She died in Brooklyn, N. Y., September 26, 1875. Their children were :

i. Charles Hudson, born November 9, 1856 ; Amherst, 1877. He graduated May 5, 1881, from Auburn Theological Seminary. Licensed by Presbytery at Auburn, N. Y., 1881.

ii. Henry Lyndon, born September 28, 1860 ; died, July, 1861.

iii. George Sanford, born February 27, 1862.

iv. Fanny Heywood, born July 31, 1863.

3. MARTHA BRIGHAM, born April 10, 1832 ; died April 25, 1832.

4. CHARLES HENRY, born July 10, 1833. He graduated as civil engineer from the Lawrence Scientific School, Harvard University, in 1854. Since that time he has been connected with some of the leading railroads of the Northwest. He is now General Manager of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway, and resides at Minneapolis. He married, January 1, 1862, Frances H. Nichols, of Boston. His children are :

i. Charles, born December 18, 1864.

ii. Henry, born April 21, 1868.

iii. Mary Elizabeth, born June 12, 1872 ; died July 10, 1874.

- iv. Mabel Evelyn, born April 28, 1876.
- v. John Williams, born October 11, 1880.

5. JOHN WILLIAMS, born July 10, 1836; died June 1, 1872. He married, March 25, 1865, Sophia W. Mellen, daughter of Hon. Edward and Sophia (Whitney) Mellen, of Wayland. He graduated from Harvard College, in 1856; he taught a High School, read law, and, in 1862, was admitted to the Suffolk Bar. In the late Rebellion he served three years with the 35th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, in the Army of the Potomac, and in Kentucky, Mississippi and East Tennessee. He was Lieutenant-Colonel of his Regiment. In August, 1868, he was appointed Judge Advocate on the Staff of General Pierson, commanding Second Brigade Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, which position he held until his death. He held several town offices, being, in 1866 and 1867, Selectman, Overseer of the Poor, and member of the School Committee.

- 6. MARY ELIZABETH, born March 31, 1839.





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Charles Hudson, in memoriam:

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